

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALGIER 01596 161411Z

40

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 161325Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2735

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T ALGIERS 1596

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

DEPT PLS PASS TO DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, SP, AG, US

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: US DIPLOMATIC ROLE

REF: (A) SECTO 60041; (B) RABAT 3412

1. WE ARE NOT PERSUADED THAT ATTITUDES OF PARTIES TO SAHARA
DISPUTE ARE CLEAR ENOUGH TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR EXPECTATION
THAT US INTERMEDIARY ROLE CAN FURTHER RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE
WITHOUT UNNECESSARILY MAKING US TARGET FOR CRITICISM.

2. MOROCCAN INSISTENCE ON BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE
VIEWED AS REFLECTING LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN EXTENT TO WHICH
THEY HAVE ALGERIANS PINNED DOWN BILATERALLY OR HAVE SOLID
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JOINT UNDERSTANDING WITH MAURITANIA. IT IS NOT CLEAR, FOR

ONE THING, THAT GOA HAS ACTUALLY ABANDONED ITS ORIGINAL "AUTODETERMINATION" FORMULA AS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION FOR THE SPANISH SAHARA PROBLEM. WE NOT CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN PROCEED TO EXCLUDE GOA FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES SIMPLY BECAUSE OF MOROCCAN/ALGERIAN RAPPROCHEMENT BASED ON GOA AND GOM "PUBLIC WORD." THESE WORDS WARM BUT STILL IMPRECISE AND WE MUST KEEP IN MIND ALGERIANS ALREADY BLAMING US FOR MOROCCAN ACTIVISM. WE ALSO HAVE TO QUESTION WISDOM OF US ACTING ON BASIS OF "LETTING MOROCCANS CARRY BALL WITH MAURITANIANS." WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY MADRID QUESTION OF SPANISH MOTIVES, WHICH CONFUSE US TOO, BUT WE HAVE TO SUSPECT SPANISH ACTIONS REFLECT MORE THAN PRIDE.

3. IF EVERYTHING IS SO CLEAR-CUT THAT WE COULD GET PROCEEDINGS STARTED EARLY AND THEN WITHDRAW, THEN WONDER WHY WE ARE NEEDED. IF THINGS ARE NOT THIS CELAR-CUT, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY ARE, WE WOULD PREFER AVOID GETTING CAUGHT BETWEEN DOG AND LAMPOST.PARKER

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED.

SECRET

NNN

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